

## BASIC WAYS TO CONSERVE WATER

Everyone wants to help conserve valuable resources. And water is one of the most valuable there is. We couldn't live without it. But what can an individual - or single family - do to help? The answer is in these simple suggestions.

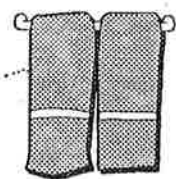
1. Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day. Fix it and you save almost 6,000 gallons a year.



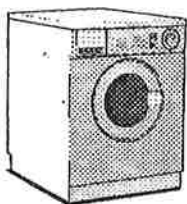
2. Put a bit of food coloring in each toilet tank. Without flushing, watch for a few minutes to see if the color shows up in the bowl. It's not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these otherwise invisible toilet leaks. And that's more than 30,000 gallons a year.



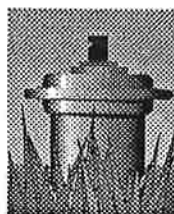
3. Don't shower too long or fill the tub too full. Five minutes for showering and about five inches in the tub is plenty. Or install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. Your local hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive water saving devices.



4. Try to use automatic dish and clothes washing machines with full loads only. Even when the machines feature short cycles, you're being more efficient with your water when there are enough dirty things for a full load.



5. Most importantly, water your lawn and garden with good sense. By following some simple guidelines you can water less



frequently, use less water and actually strengthen the root systems of lawns, trees and plants.

*When does my grass need water?* When you walk on your lawn, do you leave footprints behind? That's a sign the grass needs water. It's too dry to spring back when you walk on it. Another sign is grass that turns a dull grey-green color.

*How much should I water?* Lawns stay healthy with one inch of water applied slowly about every seven days. To measure one inch place a cup in the area being watered; when one inch is measured in the cup you can turn off the water.

*When should I water?* The best time to water is late in the evening or early in the morning when the evaporation rate is lowest. Don't water when it's windy.

6. *Other tips!* Don't let the water run when you brush your teeth or wash your hands, face, or shave. Don't flush away tissues and other bits of trash in the toilet. Fill the sink with water and stopper to clean your vegetables and fruits. Sweep outside with a broom, not the hose. Wash your car on the lawn. Eliminate weeds, they compete for water. Use mulches, bark, sawdust or compost to retain moisture. Fertilize moderately in the spring and late fall for best results. Aerate and de-thatch, these improve air and water penetration.